PLANT PROTECTION

17. Central Plant Protection Training Institute.
18. Integrated Pest Management.
19. Expansion of Plant Quarantine Facilities
20. Expansion and Strengthening of Locust Warning Organisation.
21. Implementation of the Insecticides Act, 1986 and Regional Pesticides Quality Control Laboratories.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS & MACHINERY

22. Strengthening of Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute at Budni, Hissar, Garladinne and Sonitpur
23. Establishment of Farms Machinery Training and Testing Institute in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Eastern Region.
24. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation amongst small farmers
25. Development of Prototypes of Industrial designs of Agricultural Implements.
26. Strengthening of Agricultural Engineering Department of State Agriculture Universities.

CREDIT

27. Investment in Debentures of Land Development Banks.
28. Credit Cooperative Institution in under-developed States.
29. Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund.
30. Special Schemes for SC/ST.

WATER MANAGEMENT

31. On-Farm Water Management System.
32. Use of Plastics in Agriculture and promotion of drip/sprinkler irrigation systems.

Indo-Australian Collaboration Programme

1874. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is likely to fund new farm projects and allied sectors in India under the Indo-Australian collaboration programme;

(b) if so, what are the projects which are identified for the purpose; and

(c) the time it will take to complete the projects with details of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) A Joint Indo-ACIAR Consultation was held on July 10-11, 1997 at New Delhi to identify priorities for future collaboration between the two research organisations. The priority areas have been identified in the field of crop sciences including fodder production, post harvest technology, animal sciences land and water resources, forestry, fisheries, agricultural and natural resource economics and capacity building through research training.

(c) The new projects based on priorities finally approved for possible funding under collaborative arrangement may come through after the draft priorities are agreed upon.

Development of Animal Husbandry in North-East

1875. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is ample scope for the development of animal husbandry in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State wise; and

(c) the details of the assistance given to various State Governments for the development schemes during 1996-97, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

Sheep/Goat	—
Pack Animals	—
Yak	—
Mithun	—
Cattle and Buffalo	—
Piggery	—
Poultry	—

(c) The State-wise details of assistance provided to North-East under various development schemes during 1996-97 is given below:

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	State	Total Assistance provided during 1996-97
Ke		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	203.41
2.	Assam	36.27
3.	Manipur	94.78
4.	Meghalaya	77.22
5.	Mizoram	191.86
6.	Nagaland	494.37
7.	Tripura	35.45

Losses due to rains and flood in Kerala

1876. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the heavy damage to persons and property in Kerala due to rains and flood;

(b) if so, the extent of damage;

(c) whether Government have received any report from Kerala Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the demand for financial assistance; and

(b) There is ample scope for improving the production and productivity levels of various species of livestock in different States of the region, as indicated below:

Sheep/Goat	All States of the region
Pack Animals	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur
Yak	Arunachal Pradesh
Mithun	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland
Cattle and Buffalo	All States of the region
Piggery	All States of the region
Poultry	All States of the region

(e) the amount granted for flood relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) According to the reports received from the Government of Kerala, heavy rains, floods and landslides during the current South West Monsoon claimed 115 human lives and damaged 13424 houses and crops in an area of 90000 hectares.

(c) to (e) Government of Kerala have submitted a Memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 1106.26 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

Three instalments of the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 32.89 crores have been released to the State Government including the advance release of the third instalment of Rs. 10.96 crores in the wake of heavy rains and floods of July, 1997. A Central Team has concluded its visit of the affected areas on 2nd August, 1997 and after considering the report of the Team, the National Calamity Relief Committee will decide on the additional assistance, if any, required to be provided from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

Floods in Brahmputra and Barak

1877. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: